

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**MICHAEL M. GRANT**  
**Legislator - District 2**

Chair, Budget & Finance Committee  
Vice-Chair, Government Operations Committee  
2nd Vice Chair - Planning & Public Works Committee

**Members Present:**

Leg. M. Grant, Chair  
Leg. A. Wolfe, Vice Chair  
Leg. H. Cornell  
Leg. T. Earl  
Leg. J. Hood, Jr.  
Leg. N. Low-Hogan  
Leg. D. Jobson  
Leg. J. Murphy  
Leg. P. Soskin

**Members Absent:**

Leg. I. Schoenberger

**Others Present:**

Leg. Carey	Leg. Wieder
Leg. Paul	Leg. Hofstein
Leg. Moroney	E. Yeger, Esq.
N. Doliner	J. Birnbaum, Esq.
S. Powers	S. Sherwood
T. Zugibe	D. Coyne
B. Schwartz	S. DeGroat
Sheriff Falco	S. Hamilton
C. Barbash	P. Brennan

MINUTES  
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015  
7:15 PM

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF FEB. 24, 2015

**MOTION TO ADOPT:**  
**WOLFE/SOSKIN**

**UNAN**

**1. BONDS/PUBLIC WORKS MATTER:**

1PPW) REF. #8293 - APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN USING NEW YORK STATE MASS TRANSPORTATION OPERATING ASSISTANCE (STOA) TO FUND CONTINUED OPERATION WITHIN ROCKLAND COUNTY OF THE "CLARKSTOWN MINI TRANS" PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2015 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2017 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF THE INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION) (NO COUNTY TAX DOLLARS) (DOUGLAS J. SCHUETZ, ACTING COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION)  
**DL#2015-00579**

TRANSFERRED FROM PPW  
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WOLFE, GRANT, PAUL, MORONEY, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**CORNELL/LOW-HOGAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN**

2PPW) REF. #8293 - APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF SPRING VALLEY USING NEW YORK STATE MASS TRANSPORTATION OPERATING ASSISTANCE (STOA) TO FUND CONTINUED OPERATION WITHIN ROCKLAND COUNTY OF THE "SPRING VALLEY JITNEY" PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BUS SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2015 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2017 AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF THE INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION) (NO COUNTY TAX DOLLARS) (DOUGLAS J. SCHUETZ, ACTING COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION)  
**DL#2015-00581**

TRANSFERRED FROM PPW  
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. WOLFE, GRANT, PAUL, MORONEY, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**HOOD, JR./WOLFE**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., SOSKIN**

**2. GRANTS/DONATIONS:**

2A) REF. #6760 - APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$622,356 (NCTD) (DISTRIBUTION #3) FROM THE NYS OFFICE OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES TO ESTABLISH TWO POSITIONS, INCREASE THE HOURS OF THREE EXISTING POSITIONS, COVER THE FULL OR PARTIAL COST OF VARIOUS EXISTING POSITIONS, OBTAIN VARIOUS SUPPLIES/LEGAL SERVICES AND PROVIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION/TRAINING IN ORDER TO HELP BETTER SERVE INDIGENT CLIENTS FOR A THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY GRANT DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (PUBLIC DEFENDER) (\$622,356)  
**(JAMES LICATA, PUBLIC DEFENDER)**  
**DL#2014-04296**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
SOSKIN/MURPHY**

**UNAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

2B) REF. #6760 - APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$622,356 (NCTD) (DISTRIBUTION #4) FROM THE NYS OFFICE OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES TO ESTABLISH ONE POSITION, COVER THE FULL OR PARTIAL COST OF VARIOUS EXISTING POSITIONS, OBTAIN VARIOUS ITEMS/SUPPLIES/LEGAL SERVICES AND PROVIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION/TRAINING IN ORDER TO HELP BETTER SERVE INDIGENT CLIENTS FOR A THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY GRANT DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (PUBLIC DEFENDER) (\$622,356)  
**(JAMES LICATA, PUBLIC DEFENDER)**  
**DL#2014-04300**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:  
EARL/LOW-HOGAN**

**UNAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

**3. BUDGET ITEMS:**

3A) REF. #9500 - APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,250 TO FRED ELLER  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1447, MONSEY, NEW YORK FOR  
PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES IN 2015  
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, CHAIR, LEGISLATURE)  
LG#2015-29

**MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN**  
**WOLFE/SOSKIN**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

3B) REF. #9500 - APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,250 TO FROMM-MAXWELL-  
DEBAUN POST 859, SUFFERN, NEW YORK FOR PATRIOTIC  
OBSERVANCES IN 2015  
(HON. ALDEN H. WOLFE, CHAIR, LEGISLATURE)  
LG#2015-32

**MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN**  
**WOLFE/JOBSON**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

3C) REF. #9500 - APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,250 TO THE JOHN M. PERRY  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1044 SPARKILL, NEW YORK FOR  
PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES IN 2015  
(HON. JOHN A. MURPHY, LEGISLATURE)  
LG#2015-33

**MOTION TO APPROVE: UNAN**  
**MURPHY/LOW-HOGAN**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, LOW-  
HOGAN, SOSKIN**

3D) REF. #9500 - APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,250 TO MARINE CORPS  
LEAGUE-ROCKLAND COUNTY DETACHMENT, HAVERSTRAW,  
NEW YORK FOR PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES IN 2015  
(HON. JOHN A. MURPHY, LEGISLATURE)  
LG#2015-31

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**MURPHY/HOOD, JR.**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON,  
SOSKIN**

**4. AUTHORIZATIONS:**

4A) REF. #2825 - EXTENDING THE TEMPORARY POSITION OF TRANSIT  
ADMINISTRATOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION  
(EDWIN J. DAY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE)  
DL#2015-00707

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**SOSKIN/MURPHY**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

**5. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS:**

5A) REF. #3657 - APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF  
\$100,000 WITH NEW YORK HEALTH CARE, INC. TO PROVIDE HOME  
CARE SERVICES TO SENIOR CITIZENS INCREASING THE CONTRACT  
SUM BY \$35,000 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED  
\$128,771 FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015,  
AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
(OFFICE FOR THE AGING) (\$128,771)  
(JUNE E. MOLOF, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR THE AGING)  
DL#2015-00590

*TRANSFERRED FROM MULTI-SERVICES  
ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, WEIDER, HOFSTEIN,  
MORONEY, WOLFE, CORNELL, JOBSON*

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**CORNELL/LOW-HOGAN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, HOOD, JR.**

5B) REF. #6704 - APPROVING EXTENSION OF AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND AND THE VILLAGE OF HAVERSTRAW TO PROVIDE DRUG MARKET INTERVENTION CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015 NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY TAX DOLLARS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY) (\$30,000)  
**(THOMAS P. ZUGIBE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY)**  
**DL#2015-00404**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**HOOD, JR./JOBSON**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

5C) REF. #9384 - APPROVING AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS BEACH, PLLC IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 FOR BOND COUNSEL SERVICES UNDER RFP-RC-2012-030 FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$440,000 FROM JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015 WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL ONE YEAR TERMS AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE) (\$440,000)  
**(STEPHEN DEGROAT, COMMISSIONER BUDGET & FINANCE)**  
**DL#2015-00531**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**MURPHY/EARL**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

5D) REF. #9252 - APPROVING AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS OF NEW YORK, INC. TO PROVIDE AN UPGRADE OF THE 9-1-1 PSAP COMPUTER TELEPHONE INTEGRATED (CTI) TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,844,836.87 FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM UNDER RFP-RC-2013-019 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 1802 [DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES-COMMUNICATIONS] (\$1,844,836.87)  
**(ROBERT H. GRUFFI, DIRECTOR, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT)**  
**DL#2015-00547**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** **UNAN**  
**JOBSON/SOSKIN**

**ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. GRANT, WOLFE, CORNELL, EARL, HOOD, JR., JOBSON, SOSKIN**

**6. ALLOCATION/RECLASSIFICATION OF POSITIONS:** **NONE**

**7. BIDS:** **NONE**

**8. TRANSFER OF FUNDS/OTHERS:** **NONE**

**9. TAX ITEMS:** **NONE**

**10. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** **NONE**

**11. LOCAL LAWS/HOME RULES:** **NONE**

**12. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:**

12A) REF. #9173 - DISCUSSION ITEM: REVIEW OF MEDICAID AND WELFARE PROGRAMS (QUALIFICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF)  
**(HON. JAY HOOD, JR., LEGISLATURE)**

Budget & Finance Chairman Grant explained that Medicaid is a federal program that provides health services to eligible low income families and people with disabilities. It is administered by the State and jointly funded by both the Federal and State governments (except in New York and Michigan). Local County shares are required by both and New York requires its Counties to pay 50% of the State's share. In Rockland County that amounts to \$73,600,000 (70% of the County property tax dollars collected).

Leg. Hood said his purpose in bringing this discussion to the Committee was to get the facts. There have been a lot of rumors out there about fraud. The County simply administers the federal and state program. they do not make the rules. In 2014 approximately 88,000 Rockland County residents received Medicaid benefits. It is the County's biggest expense and Leg. Hood believes there is a lot of misinformation out there. It is important to have a fact finding discussion with State and County officials.

Chair Grant introduced Dan Coyne, NYS DOH, Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG). Mr. Coyne reports directly to the Medicaid Inspector General and part of his duties include investigations, setting policy, standards and procedures, serving as liaison to other government entities, waste and abuse findings and other special projects as directed. He thanked the Committee for inviting him. He stated that their office accepts any information regarding fraud and will investigate, develop and work with local law enforcement.

Leg. Carey asked what other local agencies they deal with. Mr. Coyne said depending on how the information is sent to them, they will work Social Services, District Attorney's office, local law enforcement and the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Bill Schwartz, Public Relations for the OMIG commented that originally applicants were required to apply in person. Recently an on-line change to the application process has taken the pre-screening process out of local hands, eliminated the human element, thereby increasing the possibility of fraudulent activity.

Leg. Earl questioned what was required of applicants in the way of documentation. Commissioner of Social Services Sue Sherwood said since this information has been changed to an on-line system to comply with President Obama's Affordable Care Act, the bottom line is no documents get submitted making it much easier to defraud the system. It is a very tough program to administer. Commissioner Sherwood stated they are tasked by law according to rules and regulations they cannot change. Their office has a lot of information that they are able to share. DSS and District Attorney Zugibe work in partnership to identify and prosecute those who are defrauding the system.

Leg. Hood questioned Commissioner Sherwood regarding the rules on married vs. unmarried /religious vs. secular. Comm. Sherwood said this was a true urban legend whether you were married or not married. The only thing that counts is income. People can be living in a \$500,000 home but the only thing their eligibility is based on is their income, not their resources.

District Attorney Zugibe recommended looking into special investigate units for Social Services. When an application is submitted on-line, you cannot prove who did it. Fraud referrals are going to the State and this ties the hand of Social Services and law enforcement.

Some of the recommendations from Commissioner Sherwood were: create a united front-lobby to state and federal officials; periodic reviews, resource testing for all programs; public awareness; ensure on-line applications come from an IPS address in New York; hire additional fraud inspectors, among others.

Leg. Wolfe was very impressed with the work being done by Social Services and the District Attorney's office and was very supportive of these recommendations.

The committee requested Commissioner Sherwood send her recommendations to the Legislature in writing and members present at the Committee were supportive of the need to increase the investigative staff.

Leg. Murphy was incredulous that this Legislative body does not have regular meetings with our State representatives considering most of our budget is mandated by the State and recommended doing so.

**ACTIONS:**

***DAN COYNE, NYS DOH OFFICE OF THE MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL***

- COMMITTEE REQUESTS DATA TO QUANTIFY THE NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF RECIPIENT FRAUD IN ROCKLAND AS COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTIES
- NUMBER OF SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED CASES OF RECIPIENT FRAUD IN ROCKLAND AS COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTIES
- NUMBER/PERCENTAGE OF MEDICAID RECIPIENTS IN ROCKLAND AS COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTIES
- COMMITTEE IS SOLICITING SUGGESTIONS FROM THE STATE AS TO HOW TO IMPROVE FRAUD PREVENTION

***SUSAN SHERWOOD, COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES***

- COMMITTEE EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION TO HIRE MORE INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
- COMMISSIONER TO PROVIDE LEGISLATURE WITH RESOLUTION AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED AT MEETING TO IMPROVE FRAUD PREVENTION AND DISCOVERY
- COMMISSIONER TO PROVIDE DATA ON MEDICAID RECIPIENTS BY ZIP CODE

***COMMITTEE***

- COMMITTEE REQUESTS INFORMATION FROM NYS DOH IN RESPECT TO MEDICAID APPLICATION PROCESS AND THE NEW ON-LINE PROCESS THROUGH THE NY HEALTH EXCHANGE
- COMMITTEE REQUESTS COMMITTEE CLERK TO SET MEETING WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS MEDICAID

12B) REF. #9173 - DISCUSSION ITEM: REVIEW OF THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR MEDICAID ELIGIBLE PATIENTS IN ROCKLAND COUNTY - UPDATE FROM ADMINISTRATION THE APPEALS HAVE BEEN FILED OR WILL BE RECEIVING REIMBURSEMENT  
(HON. H. CORNELL, LEGISLATURE) **PULLED**

**THIS WILL NOT BE BROUGHT BACK TO COMMITTEE. SPONSOR RECEIVED INFORMATION REQUESTED.**

**13. MISCELLANEOUS: NONE**

**14. RECEIVE & FILE: NONE**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE/REVIEW AND DISCUSSION: NONE**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 10:00 PM UNAN  
WOLFE/EARL**